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Introduction

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INTRODUCTION

Our writers chose their topics in August, but September 11th affected us all so much—our lives, our thoughts, our consideration of every topic. In light of the September 11th attacks, our editors and writers felt it crucial to approach some topics in light of the attacks. We dedicate this issue to the heroes—those who died as a result of the attacks and those who made a difference in a variety of ways.

Four of our students wrote on topics greatly affected by September 11th. Ms. Ries addresses the overall topic of airport security as it was changing in the fall of 2001. Ms. Bennett's companion note reflects how the use of facial recognition technology could prevent a similar catastrophe from happening again, but it might invade our civil liberties to an uncomfortable level. Mr. Burch considers how hate speech on the Internet should be regulated in light of the current war. Mr. Barnidge provides a thoughtful look on the publicity surrounding Timothy McVeigh's execution and how it might relate to Osama bin Laden, which relates well in a time where many Americans want to punish the murderers responsible for the attacks on America.

We also address a realm of other technology topics: patent law and trademark law in addition to Internet taxation, marketing, and usage. Ms. Prettie, an attorney with PricewaterhouseCooper's Legal and Tax Services, examines the theories of permanent establishment and taxable presence to determine taxability of Internet commerce. Mr. Sidbury, an attorney with Alston & Bird, considers whether the fair use exception to trademark laws should apply to Internet metatags.

Federal agency use of technology for public access and for general employee use must be accessible to those with disabilities, according to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. How this affects government agencies and government contractors is often misunderstood, and Ms. McLawhorn offers some clarification on this subject. Mr. Stover provides an in-depth look for patent lawyers, extolling means-plus-function claims over the doctrine of equivalents.